

SENATE RESOLUTION 190

By Faulk

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Mike Hammond upon being inducted into the Country Radio Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to formally recognize those talented professionals whose influence on and participation in the broadcasting profession is of great import and whose talent has set them apart; and

WHEREAS, veteran radio broadcaster Mike Hammond is one such individual who has won acclaim for his years of excellence in the broadcast industry on radio station WIVK in Knoxville, where he currently serves as program director and operations manager; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the impact he has had on the genre of country music, Mike Hammond has been selected for induction into the prestigious Country Radio Hall of Fame on February 23, 2010, in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Church Hill High School, Mike Hammond was still in high school when he first took to the airwaves on WMCH AM 1260 as part of a fifteen-minute weekly radio program held by the school's 4-H Club; and

WHEREAS, WMCH station manager Bettye Russell heard the talented young man on the air and offered him a part-time job, which he accepted. He continued his radio career while he attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, working for two local stations, WBIR AM and WETE AM; and

WHEREAS, joining WIVK in 1973, Mike Hammond quickly won recognition as an exemplary broadcaster and helped the station build a tremendous following over the years as his career advanced; and

WHEREAS, named the Associated Press Broadcaster of the Year in 1980, Mr. Hammond won the Edward R. Murrow award for news reporting in 1996. During his tenure as

news director of WIVK, the station was named best news operation in Tennessee by the Associated Press a total of ten times and received the Edward R. Murrow award for regional excellence three times; and

WHEREAS, while serving as program director, Mike Hammond has taken WIVK to even greater heights, having been acclaimed station of the year by the Country Music Association seven times, the Academy of Country Music's station of the year five times, and *Radio and Records'* station of the year twice; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Hammond's remarkable leadership, WIVK has also been honored by the Country Radio Broadcasters six-times as Humanitarian Station of the Year and was named the Marconi station of the year by the National Association of Broadcasters five times; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, Mike Hammond has served as a Knox County Commissioner since 2004 and has been the public address announcer for the University of Tennessee Lady Vols for over sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hammond has also lent his time and talents to numerous charitable and humanitarian organizations, including tenures as board chairman of the Bijou Theater and the American Red Cross; marketing chair of the United Way; board member of Second Harvest, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and the Tennessee Theater; and current co-chair of the Dogwood Arts Festival; and

WHEREAS, Mike Hammond played a vital role in one of the first radiothons for St. Jude Children's Hospital; to date, WIVK has raised over \$5,000,000 for the hospital. He also helped organize the first "Coats for the Cold" charity campaign approximately twenty-seven years ago; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished member of his profession, a respected leader in his community, and a committed humanitarian, Mr. Hammond is a Tennessean of whom all Tennesseans can be proud, and it is highly appropriate that this body should recognize such an esteemed legend of country music radio; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Mike

Hammond upon his induction into the Country Radio Hall of Fame and pay tribute to his many years of broadcasting excellence and service to the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.